

**Youth Peer Support Specialist
Advocacy Services for Kids**

JOB TITLE: Youth Peer Support Specialist
TIME/HOURS: Full-time 40 hours/week
FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt
WAGE/SALARY: \$13.00/hour
SUPERVISOR: Youth Services Manager
PROBATIONARY PERIOD: 3 months

PURPOSE:

The Youth Peer Specialist (YPSS) will act as a support and resource for youth with serious emotional disturbances (SED) who are receiving services in the behavioral health system. The YPSS will act as a key member of the treatment team by working with youth one on one or in a group, supporting them in achieving goals through shared activities and interventions. YPSSs will support youth empowerment by assisting youth in developing skills to improve their overall functioning and quality of life while working collaboratively with others involved in delivering the youth's care.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Attend all required training to enhance skills and meet agency guidelines as required by the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), and other agencies governing the operation of the agency.
2. Build and foster relationships with the youth and family & others working with the youth.
3. Actively engage as part of the treatment team to meet youth needs, complete all required documentation and paperwork.
4. Prepare the youth to fully participate in their own meetings and treatment planning process (including Wraparound, Family Centered Planning meetings (IPOS), IEP meetings, etc.)
5. Teach self-advocacy, problem solving and independent living skills.
6. Provide support during "rough" or "crisis" times.
7. Provide community education about youth culture and perspective.
8. Interrupt bias and promote a stance of acceptance while reducing stigma about mental health.
9. Empower the youth to build understanding in others about their unique mental health needs.
10. In collaboration with the youth, work with other internal and external partners (i.e. schools, faith community, other human services organizations) to develop natural supports to eliminate barriers to services, enhance existing community services or develop new services based on the needs of the youth.
11. Co-facilitate groups of youth focusing on goals as specified in treatment plan.

12. Provide consultation and education to individuals and groups and use problem solving techniques with the objective of assisting youth in improving or maintaining functioning.
13. Serve as a role model and active participant in supporting youth in meeting their treatment plan goals.
14. Perform other related duties as assigned by the Supervisor.

EDUCATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. Young adult, ages 18 through 26.
2. Willing and able to self-identify as a person who has or is receiving mental health services as a youth and has lived experience, and is prepared to use that experience to helping others.
3. Experience receiving services as a youth in complex, child serving systems (behavioral health, child welfare, juvenile justice, special education, foster care etc.) preferred.
4. High School Diploma/ GED.
5. Eligible and understands that they must be trained in MDHHS approved curriculum and ongoing training model.
6. Able to attend training October 11th through the 13th and November 15th and 16th 2016 in Lansing, Michigan- 8 hours per day.
7. Strong communication, time management and organizational skills.
8. Possess basic computer proficiency skills.
9. Valid driver's license.
10. Access to and ability to utilize transportation in order to perform job activities.
11. Ability to pass background check and screening requirements as required by agency.

PROFICIENCY IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

1. Ability to communicate and model a sense of hope and expectancy for youth with SED.
2. Ability and willingness to self-disclose and share experience with others.
3. Technical skill in the area of community collaborations.
4. Knowledge and resources of the child serving systems and how to access useful resources in the community.
5. Ability to maintain and role model strong boundaries.
6. Problem solving skills.
7. Competence in working as a team member within child serving systems.
8. Strong commitment to the mission/values of the PIHP/CMHSP System.
9. Strong written and verbal communication skills.
10. Computer and data processing skills.
11. Data collection and storage procedures.
12. HIPAA/Confidentiality requirements.
13. Report generation and Documentation.

Please send resume and cover letter by 9-21-16 to:
Advocacy Services for Kids
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